

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0015] as follows:

The present inventors therefore conducted further diligent research and found that this problem can be solved by the following invention.

Specifically, the crucible of the invention is a crucible for growth of a single crystal along the crystal plane of a seed by melting and cooling an optical part material, characterized in that a tapered cone surface is formed between the starting material carrying section in which the optical part material is loaded and the seed carrying section in which the seed is loaded, the wall surface of the starting material carrying section is smoothly connected to the cone surface via a concave curved plane (*i.e., a concave curved surface*), and the cone surface is smoothly connected to the wall surface of the seed carrying section via a convex curved plane (*i.e., a convex curved surface*).